

SAMPLE HONOR ROWS NOMINATION

Each year, the Baltimore Ravens receive nominations for the Honor Rows recognition program from all over the State. This is a highly competitive program. Information about the program and the 2015 Honor Rows Nomination Form is online at

<http://www.baltimoreravens.com/news/community/honor-rows.html>

The information provided below is a sample only; it does not represent any actual person or organization (although several agencies mentioned are real). It is meant to illustrate several key qualities of a strong and competitive nomination. Note that the nomination provides all requested information in detail. It vividly describes the youth service and volunteers and also gives specific accomplishments. And it provides a clear case for why this group should receive recognition from the Baltimore Ravens, M&T Bank, and the Governor's Office.

Nominations are due online by August 14th. Good luck with your nomination!

SAMPLE – Part 1 Nomination Form:

1. Name of youth group or youth organization:
Girl Power in Southern Maryland
2. Address/phone of organization:
123 La Plata Drive
La Plata, MD 20646
3. Name of nominator:
Jane Smith, Director of Charles County Food Sunday
4. Address/phone/e-mail of nominator:
Charles County Food Sunday
78 Charles Street
La Plata, MD 20646
301-555-1234
jsmith@ccfs.org
5. Number of active members in the youth group or youth organization:
40 girls, ages 11 – 14
6. Neighborhoods/communities served by group or organization:
Girl Power (GP) serves a number of communities across southern Maryland. From the needs of veterans in Calvert County to residents of La Plata, and including abandoned or neglected animals across the region and people with disabilities in St. Mary's County. GP is a year-long service program; the volunteers work with an advisory group of adults and nonprofit leaders who help design the annual service plan, lead projects, and provide coaching and leadership development for the GP volunteers. Each month, GP volunteers

work in two service projects (usually held on Saturday morning) and two leadership circles (usually held on Wednesday evening).

One of the advisors, Jane Smith, is the nominator for Honor Rows. Jane has worked with GP since it was formed in 2009, and she has supervised teams of 20 GP volunteers at Charles County Food Sunday (CCFS) each year. Over 400 families receive food assistance from CCFS each week. With only one part-time staff member, CCFS relies on volunteers to organize and pack food donations. GP volunteers come in each month to organize and pack food for 150 families.

7. Describe how the group's programs meet the needs of the above named communities: Girl Power (GP) is a youth service program that engages girls in intensive community service and leadership development. The program is staffed by volunteers who work with elected the youth each summer to develop a year-long service plan that serves local needs. Created in 2009, GP has engaged over 100 youth volunteers and built a strong network of young women in southern Maryland.

To meet local community needs each year, GP partners with five nonprofit agencies that provide human and environmental service across the region. These partners include: Charles County Food Sunday (CCFS), the Southern Maryland Humane Society, Calvert Hospice, VFW Post 132's Homeless Veterans Outreach in Calvert County, and the Greenwell Foundation. GP volunteers work with each of these groups throughout the year; typically, there are two projects happening at two locations on a service day, and half of the GP volunteers will go to each one. The program requires that volunteers to rotate throughout the schedule and work with different members of the group over the course of the year.

8. Describe how the group or organization is developing the leadership and personal/professional skills of its members:
One of the great strengths of Girl Power (GP) is its emphasis on the leadership development of its members in addition to the community service across the region. Each year, Charles County Public Schools identifies 40 girls, ages 11 – 14, as having special learning needs and as being strong candidates for Girl Power. These girls, who have often been stigmatized since they entered school because of their physical disability, dyslexia or other learning disability, or emotional problems, are supported by a dedicated team of eight adult volunteers and advisors. A key goal for GP is to provide these young women with opportunities to shine – to be leaders and to be heroes.

To foster this, the GP staff provides a year-long leadership circle along with the local service opportunities. The circle includes lectures and activities that help the GP volunteers identify their strengths and goals for the future, build their communication skills, and reflect on the importance and power of community service. The girls meet twice each month (usually on Wednesday evenings) to participate in discussions, learning activities, and journal writing.

9. Describe the extent to which at-risk youth are involved, among the group's members and/or in the community group serves:
All members of Girl Power are identified as at-risk within their school system. In addition, about 25% of the citizens served over the course of the year include at-risk youth (through the meal program at Charles County Food Sunday and the Greenwell Foundation).
10. Additional information the committee should know about the group or organization:
There are three reasons why Girl Power should receive this special recognition from the Baltimore Ravens and M&T Bank: (1) the Girl Power volunteers go above and beyond traditional youth volunteering – they touch senior citizens, veterans, families, and more over the course of their year-long program. The breadth of their reach and the real diversity of their volunteering are true measures of excellence; (2) this group is one of the best kept secrets in the state – they've never received any recognition of their work outside of the school system and agencies where they serve; and (3) they are a perfect fit with the Honor Rows program, since the type of leadership and strength embodied in the Ravens and M&T Bank are exactly the qualities that these young women are working so hard to develop in themselves.
11. How did you find out about the Honor Rows program, presented by M&T Bank?
Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism

SAMPLE – Part 2 Essay

Please include a 100-word essay that provides additional information on the nominee's community efforts and why it should be honored. Please include specific examples of recent efforts taken to improve our local communities. You may also include photos (optional) to accompany your application.

Girl Power volunteers work with therapy horses and children with disabilities, assemble food packages for needy families, make and deliver emergency kits for homeless veterans, make cards for and visit hospice patients, help care for abandoned and abused animals, and provide presentations on the humane treatment of animals.

Since the program started in 2009, 100 Girl Power volunteers have helped 200 children with disabilities, assembled food packages for 1,400 families, delivered over 1,000 emergency kits to veterans, visited 25 hospice patients, cared for 75 animals, and given 30 presentations on the humane treatment of animals.